

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Application Number : 09/898,823

Applicants : Chris Eberspacher and Karen L. Pauls

Title : "Method for Forming Particulate Materials"

Examiner : Elena Tsoy / 1762

INFORMAL
DRAFT

Newbury Park, August 25, 2003

Amendment Under Rule 116

Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 222313-1450

Commissioner for

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action (FOA) mailed 2003 July 17, the inventors request that the above application be amended as follows:

1. Amendments to the Claims

1 -8: (canceled)

9 - 24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising: preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles are a single-phase metal oxide and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

26. (currently amended) A method according to claim 25, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and Ga.